

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 by rewriting the same as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A securing clutch for a decorative piece comprising:
a flexible material retainer having a front end, a back end, and an engagement passage running through the interior of the retainer substantially at its center from the front end to the back end, the engagement passage being a first width;
a metal frame surrounding the retainer to secure the retainer within the frame, the metal frame providing a base plate at the front end and handles at the back end, the base plate being substantially planar, and whereby the front end of retainer has a protrusion extending beyond the base plate.
2. (Original) The securing clutch of claim 1 further comprising:
a decorative face;
a post with a decorative end having the decorative face attached thereto and a free end, the post being a second width;
wherein
the second width is slightly larger than the first width, and the engagement passage is constructed and arranged to retain the post by frictionally engaging the entire exterior surface of a portion of the post.
3. (Original) The securing clutch of claim 1 wherein the back end is closed
4. (Original) The securing clutch of claim 1 wherein the back end is open.
5. (Original) The securing clutch of claim 1 wherein the flexible material retainer is shaped like a rivet.

6. (Currently Amended) The securing clutch of claim 1 wherein the protrusion is the front end ~~further comprises a cylindrical protrusion.~~
7. (Original) The securing clutch of claim 1 wherein the flexible material is polyurethane.
8. (Original) The securing clutch of claim 1 wherein the flexible material is rubber
9. (Original) A method for making a securing clutch for a decorative piece, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a flexible material retainer with a front end and a back end;
 - providing a metal frame with an aperture substantially at its center, the metal frame being shaped substantially similar to a clutch with wings;
 - inserting the front end into the aperture;
 - bending the wings around the retainer in a first direction;
 - bending the tips of the wings opposite the first direction to provide handles at the wing tips.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 9 wherein the front end further comprises a cylindrical protrusion.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 9 wherein the back end further comprises an over-sized rivet head.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 9 wherein the wings are hollowed-out.
13. (Currently Amended) The securing clutch of claim 4 9 wherein the flexible material is polyurethane.

14. (Currently Amended) The securing clutch of claim + 9 wherein the flexible material is rubber.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for making a securing clutch comprising the steps of:

providing an open frame with a base plate at a frame front end and handles at a frame back end, the base plate having an opening of a first width;

providing a retainer of flexible material having a retainer front end and a retainer back end with an internal engagement passage, of a second width ~~greater~~ less than the first width, the engagement passage running from the retainer front end to the retainer back end;

providing a support ring between the handles; and

inserting the retainer into the metal frame with the retainer front end at the frame front end, the retainer back end at the frame back end, and the engagement passage axially aligned with the opening.

16. (Currently Amended) The securing clutch of claim + 15 wherein the flexible material is polyurethane.

17. (Currently Amended) The securing clutch of claim + 15 wherein the flexible material is rubber.

18. (Cancelled)